

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Status of Claims

Claims 1-6 are pending in the present application. Claims 2 and 5 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1 and 3 are herein amended. Claims 4 and 6 are herein cancelled. New claims 7-11 have been added. Support for new claim 7 can be found in paragraph [0053] and in Figure 3. Support for claims 8-11 can be found on paragraphs [0061]-[0063]. No new matter has been entered.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiners thorough consideration of the references cited in the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) submitted on August 21, 2006, December 7, 2007, March 14, 2008 and April 28, 2008.

Specification

The Office Action requests that “HPT3” be replaced “LPT3”. However, Applicants respectfully notify the Examiner that this correction was made on page 3 of the Preliminary Amendment filed concurrently with the application on August 21, 2006.

“Units of compressors” recited in the claims is amended to “compressors”.

Accordingly, Applicants request that this objection be withdrawn.

Claim Objections

The Office Action, on page 3, item 6, has objected to claims 4 and 6 because of informality in line 3 of claim 4 and line 2 of claim 6. Claims 4 and 6 are herein cancelled. Accordingly, the Applicants request that this objection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections -35 U. S. C. § 112

“A bypass pathway that has the second gas turbine bypasses to the coolant” recited in Claim 1 is amended to “a bypass pathway that allows the coolant to bypass the third gas turbine”, Therefore, the bypass pathway recited in claim 1 is clear and satisfies the enablement requirement. Furthermore, claim 3 depends on claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejection be withdrawn. Furthermore, above also addresses this issue in new claims 8-11.

Claim 4 and Claim 6 are cancelled. Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejection in items 9, 12 and 13 of the Office Action be withdrawn.

Furthermore, ne claims 8 to 11 are presented to clear the structure of the gas turbine plant which includes a plural number of gas turbines, a plural number of shafts, a plural number compressors and a bypass pathway; or includes a plural number of gas turbines, a plural number shafts, a plural number compressors and the plural number.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 3 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by McLain et al. (Reactor Handbook, Vol. IV, Interscience Publishers, John Wiley & Sons, 1964, McLain hereinafter). Applicants submit that claims as amended are patentably distinguishable from the teachings of McLain.

Claim 1 relates to a gas turbine plant. The gas turbine plant includes a first gas turbine that is rotated by the coolant being warmed by the high-temperature gas-cooled reactor and shares a first shaft with a first compressor compressing the coolant, and a second gas turbine that is rotated by the coolant being discharged from the first gas turbine and shares a second shaft with a second compressor compressing the coolant. Therefore, one gas turbine couples one compressor via one shaft in claim 1.

McLain et al., ("Reactor Handbook", V. IV, Interscience Publication, Wiley & Son, 1964, McLain hereinafter) discloses a reactor plant which includes a HP turbine and an LP turbine. The HP turbine is rotated by the coolant being warmed by a reactor, and shares a same shaft with a HP compressor compressing the coolant and an LP compressor. The LP turbine is rotated by the coolant being discharged from the HP turbine and shares a same shaft with a generator. Figure 18.8 in McLain disclose the HP turbine that shares the same shaft with the HP compressor and the LP compressor. However, McLain does not disclose one gas turbine couples one compressor via one shaft.

In addition, the LP turbine in McLain shares a same shaft with a generator. This composition of LP turbine is different from the composition of the second gas turbine in claim 1.

Furthermore, McLain does not disclose the second gas turbine that is rotated by the coolant being discharged from the first gas turbine and shares a second shaft with a second compressor compressing the coolant in claim 1.

As explained above, McLain does not disclose the characteristic feature of claim 1.

Therefore, Claim 1 is novel over the disclosure of McLain and should be allowable.

Because McLain reference does not disclose each and every element and limitation recited in claim 1, applicant submits that McLain reference does not anticipate these claims 1 and 3. Accordingly, applicant requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102 be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections -35 U. S.C. 103

Claims 4 and 6 were rejected as being obvious over McLain, in view of Bolton et al. (US 2004/0042579). However, Claims 4 and 6 are cancelled.

In addition, New Claims 8 to 11 are different from McLain as claim 1. Bolton does not disclose a bypass pathway that allows the coolant to bypass the third gas turbine in claim 1, the “n”th gas turbine in claim 8, or the “n-1”th gas turbine and the “n”th gas turbine in claim 10.

Furthermore, McLain and Bolton also fail to disclose the characteristic feature of claim 1, Claim 8 and Claim 10, and even if the disclosure of McLain and Bolton are combined, the composition of claim 1, claim 8 and claim 10 cannot be obtained. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully point out that prospective rejection with regards to new claims 8-11 has also been addressed.

Application No.: 10/590,012
Art Unit: 3663

Amendment under 37 CFR §1.111
Attorney Docket No.: 062807

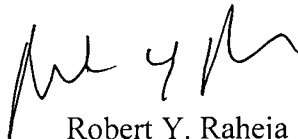
Conclusion

The Claims have been shown to be allowable over the prior art. Applicants believe that this paper is responsive to each and every ground of rejection cited in the Office Action dated October 30, 2008 and respectfully request favorable action in this application. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, applicants' attorney of record, to facilitate advancement of the present application.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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